Smuggling of textiles into the country

@2529. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of textiles into the country from Bangladesh and Nepal seriously affecting the textile industry in the country;

(b) if so, what is the estimated value of the textiles being smuggled into the country annually and the estimated recession in demand of indigenous products as a result thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that one of the main reasons for large scale smuggling of textiles into the country is the high price of indigenous products due to high rates of taxation;

(d) whether Government propose to rationalise the taxation structure in order to give relief to the textile industry in the country and also to check smuggling of textiles; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government and seizures made indicate that synthetic fabrics continue to be an item sensitive to smuggling into the country from Bangladesh and Nepal. Synthetic fabrics of foreign origin may be favoured for smuggling into the country due to various factors like profitability, better design and quality vis-a-vis Indian product, etc. However, smuggling being a clandestine activity, no reliable estimate of the value of synthetic textiles smuggled into the country is feasible.

(c) to (e) In pursuance to the Textile Policy 1985, the Government has already taken a series of steps and has reduced the excise duty rates on polyester staple fibre, acrylic fibre, polyester-cotton and polyester-viscose blended yarn and polyester-wool blended yarn. The Government has also formulated a scheme under which polyester staple fibre could be supplied free of excise/countervailing duty for manufacture and sale of low priced blended fabrics. A similar scheme has been announced in the Budget, 1987 to make available good quality sarees at reasonable price.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1627 transferred from the 10th March, 1987.

Setting up of courts to deal with CBI cases

@@2530. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to set up courts to deal exclusively with the CBI cases; and

(b) if so, what is the nature and scope of such courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government are considering setting up of more Courts of Special Judges and Special Magistrates to deal exclusively with CBI cases. These courts are proposed to be set up in States where there are a large number of CBI cases pending for trial.

Social Reforms in Civil Services

@@@2531. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake any reforms in civil services in order to get them ready to meet the challenges of the social changes; and

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 1664 tranferred from the 10th March, 1987.

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme drawn up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) Reforms in civil services in order to enable them to meet the challenges of social change is a continuing process. The steps taken in the recent past in this regard include improvements in the recruitment process, training programmes to upgrade their skills and capabilities, systematic placement and career planning, enforcement of accountability through objective performance appraisal system, etc.

Production of the polio vaccine in the country

†2532. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that polio vaccine is being produced in the country;

(b) if so, whether the quantity of the vaccine produced is adequate for the needs of the country or some quantity of the vaccine is being imported; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the indigenous production of polio vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to c) No, Sir, the Polio vaccine is not manufactured indigenously in the country. However, the Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Ltd. (HBPCL) is importing the requisite monovalent components of the oral polio vaccine in bulk and after formulation, the polyvalent polio vaccine is made available for the Expanded Programme of Immunisation. The Government have already launched a Technology Mission titled "Vaccination and Immunisation of Vulnerable Sections especially children" which also has a component of the indigenous production of polio vaccine. The technology for indigenous production has been finalised and discussion with possible manufactures are in advanced stage.

Cases of Nationalised Banks pending in Courts

2533. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nationalised banks have a large number of cases pending in various courts of law in the country, leading to clogging of courts;

(b) whether the Government have made any survey of the number of cases pending in courts, which were initiated by nationalised banks; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to order such a survey, so as to enquire into ways and means of reducing the work of courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) to (c) Quick reports obtained from the 20 nationalised banks indicate that as on 31.12.1986, they had about 5.85 lakh suits pending in various courts in the country.

The banks take recourse to law courts only after exhausting available remedies for recovery of their advances/enforcement of their rights, including consideration of proposals for settlements/compromises etc. Public sector banks have already been advised to take recourse to arbitration in matters of disputes involving only Govt. organisations/public sector undertakings. In other cases, recourse to legal action where unavoidable would have to be allowed to the banks to ensure recovery and enforcement of their rights.

Loan to Small Scale Industries by Banks in Orissa

2534. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India and other Nationalised Banks in Orissa are not financing the small scale industries in time and as such

†Previously Unstarred Question 1706 transferred from the 11th March, 1987.